

BCM

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holiday + Tokyo edition

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Interviews

haru

**Fashion
& features**

Travel Japan: Tokyo
& Tokyo Disney Sea
Freaks Circus
holiday fashion

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Freaks Circus feature: all photos by Freaks Circus, bar the intro one by Hilde Heyvaert.

Special thanks to: everyone who contributed and especially our readers!

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed by people interviewed are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the BCM staff. Thus we can and will not be held responsible, nor accountable for them.

INTRODUCTION

It's the last BCM of 2017 and you know what that means: right, holiday edition!
First of all a shout-out to our talented beauty editor Claire, who has managed to get you all covered for Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas on ONE single page! Make sure to tag us #BCMbeauty if you recreate one of the looks on social media!

Our usual Japan travel photography contributor Helcanen is taking a break from this edition to sort through the many amazing photos she's taken during her recent summer trip, and she'll be back for next edition! This edition yours truly's Tokyo photos are providing you with imagery of the land of the rising sun.

Of course, BCM wouldn't be BCM without music, and aside from reviews of recent releases, we spoke to haru when he toured Europe.

Aside from that we have our annual holiday fashion feature as well as a focus feature on alternative Tokyo based BJD brand Freaks Circus.

We'll be back next year with more events, reviews, music, fashion, travel and art, until then, enjoy this edition and happy holidays!

Hilde Heyvaert
editor in chief





Happy holidays!

This BCM issue we're not just covering Halloween but also Christmas/Yule and if you live in the USA: Thanksgiving.

For me, these special holidays require a special make-up look.

However, I can just do one look per issue, so I'm going to offer you some inspiration with a look that is adaptable for every occasion.

We're going to do copper glitter eyeliner and then work from there.

By Claire Van Laere

www.instagram.com/clairedanslune16

We would love to see your recreations!

Please tag them with #BCMbeauty on instagram and twitter!

By now you all know the drill. I apply moisturizer, primer and concealer and then my foundation. I seal it all in with powder. Now we have a nice clean slate to work with.

I apply eye shadow base and an eye shadow which is a shade very close to my skin tone. This is just to even everything out.

Next, I'm using an eye pencil or eyeliner to line my upper lid and make a long sideways wing. This way we're laying down a baseline for our eyelook.

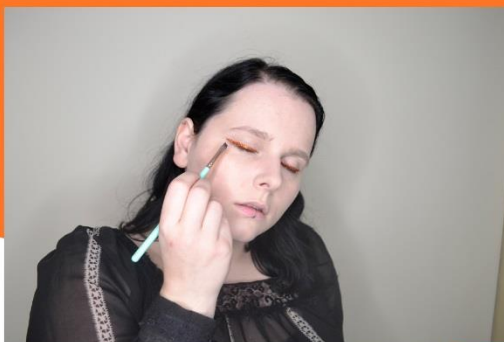
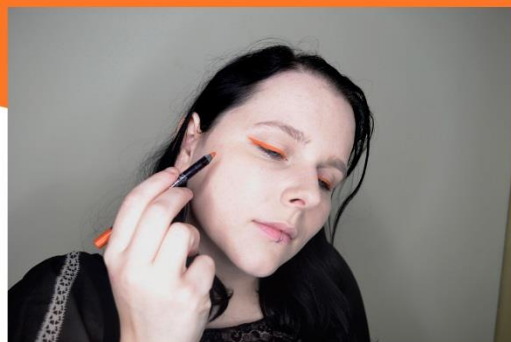
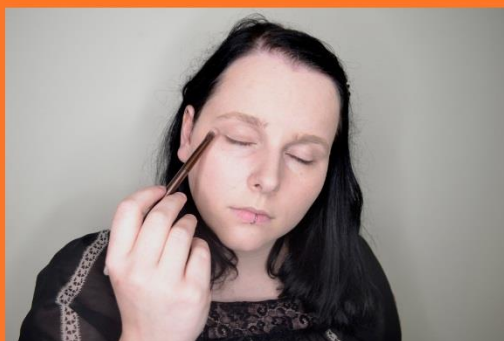
Use a colour that is close to the colour of glitter that you're going to use. For instance, I'm using orange, because I will be using copper coloured glitter.

I apply a layer of glitter base over the eyeliner. You could also use eye shadow primer, but I find that it doesn't stay put as well as with the glitter base. Then with a small brush I gently press the glitter into the base and after that you can wipe the glitter fallout away with a soft powder brush. I just want to remind you at this point, that to avoid eye shadow or glitter fallout ruining your makeup you could do your eye make-up before you do your overall face make-up.

Now we have a nice glittery fall make-up. Want to make it more Halloween appropriate?

Apply some back eyeshadow in a rectangular shape and blend it out, apply some more if needed. Put on a dark lip colour and make your face as pale as possible with some white powder. If you crimp your hair a bit it's an excellent look for a witch or the undead.

For Christmas and Thanksgiving, I made my own take on a classic holiday look. Apply some copper eye shadow in the crease and gold on the lid and the inner corners. Put on an extra voluminous mascara and some blush. Finish the whole thing with a festive red lipstick.



Products used for this look:

Bare Minerals, prime time eyeshadow primer. Benefit, fake up concealer. Bourjois, Healthy Balance Powder. Catrice, HD liquid coverage foundation. Certifeye, mini copper Glitter Pigment. kiko cosmetics, lipstick in 909. NYX, liquid suede cream lipstick in stone fox. Yves Rocher, botanical color eye pencil in orange. Sephora, Colorful eyeshadow in Girls Night Out. Too Faced, Shadow Insurance glitter glue. Urban Decay, primer potion face primer. Urban Decay, Naked Basics palette.

Cruelty free, paraben free and MIT free as well as affordable. **Canmake Tokyo**, Canmake for short, seems to be one of THE things for a Tokyo/Japan loving make-up lover to invest in. But is it really as good as it sounds? Stick with this review to find out.

When I was in Tokyo early September, I of course had to pick up some Canmake products. They are really rather easy to find, as they are distributed in both *Loft* and *Matsumoto KiYoshi*. To be fair, I found that the big *Shinjuku Matsumoto KiYoshi* had a larger stock than the infamous *Shibuya Loft*, so you may want to go directly for one of their stores.

For starters, Canmake is affordable. Prices around € 5 - 10 is the norm rather than the exception. Which is great, especially if you want to get something but you're on a budget, this won't break the bank. Canmake has a vast range of products, but I will stick to the ones I've actually tried for this.

First up: lips with the **lip tint jam in 01. Cherry Jam**. Which is their lip gloss. The name is actually really apt, even in the little container it really looks like jam. Application is a little weird, because the do foot is more like a brush, it's flexible and that's a lot more different to the ones you find on western products. There's also very little room for error, because this thing is more like a stain than anything else. If you do mess up, wipe it off right away or you'll have a stain on your face. I swatched it on my hand for a photo, and had a stain for the rest of the day. Not something I would want on my face. That said, it gives you that typical soft colour Asian lip look, it's not overly drying but it does feel a little weird on the lips and it tastes absolutely _vile_. I personally like to wear *Weleda's Everon lip balm* underneath, as that is a hydrating primer and I'm pretty sure without it, this stuff would be pretty unbearable. It isn't sticky like you would expect from a gloss, in fact, it isn't sticky at all. That, as well as how it makes my lips look, is the only reason I go back to this. It's definitely not my favourite lip product, and should I come near a Canmake Tokyo display, I would very likely not buy another one.

Cream Cheek Tint in 03. Peony Mellow

The *Cream Cheek* range, both regular and Tint were THE hit during summer in Tokyo, making it to the pages of several magazines. I can understand why, because not only are they cheap, they come in a pretty good colour range. The tint has three shades, the regular one has 8 more, all different. Whilst the formula leaves little to complain about, they did skimp on the packaging (the low price has to come from somewhere). It's definitely cute, with its little sea shell shape, but it's plastic, and not particularly sturdy plastic either. Because this is a product made for on the go use, there's a little compartment in there with a little sponge. It's a standard sponge, which I personally haven't used, but even if you can't properly clean it, it will be cheap and easy to replace. What's great about this blush is, is that it's so versatile. You can either keep it very natural looking for a healthy tint on the cheeks, or really build it up and make it pop. I saw tons of women wear a blush like this on the streets, and I totally understand why they all love this so much. Even if you don't usually get

on with cream blushes, this is super user friendly with an A+ formula. Once you apply it, it really becomes one with your skin, so there's no greasy, gross residue or anything. The only thing you can have against these is maybe not finding the shade you love. Use it with a sponge though, because if you use your fingers, it will be far harder to build up to the point where it even becomes visible.

Highlighters, and lots of them!

One of my favourite cosmetics products is highlighters, and Canmake has quite a few of those. So obviously that's what I really went for. Even though generally I don't like **cream highlighters** at all, I still got both of theirs, **01. Luminous beige** and **02. Luminous aqua** and I have to say that I like the formulation of these much more than that of other cream highlights. You can apply these with a brush, a sponge or your fingers, which makes them amazingly versatile. They are in tiny on the go packages. Which are also plastic and not that sturdy, so open them up with caution as the hinges are definitely a weak spot. If you're looking for a soft, natural glow, neither of these is your jam as they both pack a punch. The beige one is for those that love a natural looking highlight, but want to glow to the gods all the same. Whilst the aqua is truly unique as it's not a white based highlight, but in fact a pastel blue based one. You may think that this is something along the lines of *NYX' Twilight Tint*, but less is true, as this blends into your skin to give it a soft blue shine when the light hits it.

The **powder highlighters** come with their own little brush, which is surprisingly good quality for this kind of packaging. The plastic packing on these is also sturdier than that on other Canmake products I own. Is it the best brush in the world? Of course not, but if you take these on the go, taking the brush along with them is definitely not a bad thing. It's a good brush to have on you because it does the job just fine. These are soft glow highlighters that you can build up. **02. Baby Beige** is perfect for those that want that soft, healthy pinky beige glow and **01. Milky Way** is a straight up white with pastel pink undertones. It looks blue-ish in the packaging, but don't be deceived by that. The other powder highlighter I got is the **multicoloured glow fleur** one in **01. Planet Light**. Which I loved so much I gave it to a friend. I just feel like this isn't that different from Milky Way, and unless you really want to mess around with the blue and green tints and don't already own a blue or green based highlighter. Formula wise, all of these are top notch. They apply well, they're not powdery, they blend easily (as do the cream ones by the way) and they don't feel drying or uncomfortable on the skin. I would really recommend these and the blush.

So, if you find yourself near a Canmake Tokyo display and you see something that appeals to you, I would most definitely recommend giving it a try. With possible exception of the lip products, those seem a little off. They're not bad, but there's definitely better alternatives out there.

Canmake Tokyo English website: www.canmake.com/en

Review and photography by Hilde Heyvaert.



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WITCHING HOUR
LIQUID LIPSTICKS

VISIT THE CINQUANTENAIRE MUSEUM!

We at BCM often receive questions of where in Belgium and Europe is good to visit. We aren't travel agents, but we can make recommendations!

This Visit! is a little different, because we are focussing on Belgium's most amazing museum:
the Cinquenaire Museum! Well worth the trip, and it's a beautiful park, the Cinquenaire, to boot!

Other reasons to visit the Cinquenaire: it's extremely varied, you can visit several times and still discover entire new sections.
The food at the restaurant is mighty good. No one sets up an exhibit like the Cinquenaire. Just go and find out for yourself!
<http://www.kmkg-mrah.be/cinquenaire-museum>

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert.



MAKOTO

Sincérité - Sincerity

誠



New book of Helcanen to be released in April 2017

A piece of Japan, inspired by the Samurai stories during the Edo era & the Shinsengumi.
Illustrations & kanji created with traditional tools.

2017 © Helcanen.be



Event: Once Upon A Time

What: historical exhibit

When: May 17 - September 17 2017

Where: Cinquantenaire Museum, Etterbeek, Belgium

Ticket price: general admission is €15, but discount formulas are available, check the site for more info.

Website: www.kmkg-mrah.be

Once Upon a Time at the Cinquantenaire Museum was probably THE clockpunk exhibit extraordinaire. For those not familiar with the term, it coins all manners steampunk style before the start of the late Regency, which is the starting era for steampunk (dieselpunk starts with the Roaring 20s and ends with the end of the Cold War). It was also a total dream for those into fashion history and accessories full stop. That all aside, it was amazing.

This exhibit was almost entirely about pocket watches from 1650-1850. Not just any type of pocket watch mind, no, enameled pocket watches.

They could have made it a very dry presentation of beautifully enameled historical pieces, pocket watches in this case, and be done with it. But no. Once again this museum (which is not at all well known enough!) proves that when it comes to exhibition set-ups, they don't have to bow down to the greats like e.g. The British Museum. There was ample space to admire the pieces, they had built amazing displays depicting all the relevant sections and evolution of these watches through the years. The exhibition is spread out in 5 large rooms, divided in 12 themed sections, creating a really interesting and relaxed viewing flow. It's been set up to really keep your attention. Even though the subject matter is mostly the same, it doesn't get boring. Of course, you need to have an interest in history and art to be interested in an exhibit like this, but that's a given, really.

My sole regret about the set-up, awesome as it was, was that it mostly only focused on the outside of the watch. There were a few small screens set up where you could swipe and see photos of the insides too, but those were very few considering the amount of watches on display. It would have been so cool if

there had been a photo of each watch plate to accompany each watch. But in this case, the outside is definitely more impressive than the inside with most pieces. Still, it would have been nice to see all of it.

But, and this really made *Once Upon a Time* for me, they had also displayed pieces that helped you really glimpse into the lives of the kind of people who, back in the day, were able to afford these small time telling masterpieces.

For this they didn't just put up some paintings and an object here and there, no they collaborated with artist *Isabelle de Borchgrave*, who placed 20 magnificent paper reproductions of period garments throughout the exhibit. Not just dresses, but also men's wear was included, which, in my opinion, was awesome as men's fashion of those days was nearly as elaborate as the dresses we know and love from that era.

It is these dresses specifically that make the exhibit interesting for fans of Japanese fashion. You can really see where many brands found the historical inspiration for many designs they are famous for.

And of course, if you went to visit *Once Upon a Time*, you also had the chance to visit the Cinquantenaire Museum itself with its permanent collections. Which is well worth a visit on its own. It's the kind of museum that you can visit several times and then still discover a whole new section you never knew was there before. In my opinion, though it is largely unknown to the public, this is a museum on the exact same level as The British Museum or the *Victoria and Albert Museum* in London. So if you like museums, it is SO worth the visit.

Review by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



EVENT REVIEW: Comic Con Gent



Event: Comic Con Gent
What: Pop culture convention
When: July 8 & 9 2017
Where: ICC, Ghent, Belgium
Ticket price: varied, depending on the formula
Website: comiccongents.com

Comic Con Gent, formerly known as *Starcom*, struck down in the ICC for the third year in a row. We visited on the Sunday only. But boy, what a convention it was!

This is one of these conventions that started slow, but pleasant, and keeps on looking at past editions and improve upon them. And it not only shows, it works. Stick with this review and find out just why Comic Con Gent is one of the best conventions Belgium has to offer.

First of all, due to the terror threat, events in Belgium have become a little cray cray when it comes to security. There's always police present (you may not see them, but they are there) and bag checks are mandatory. CCG could have made this unpleasant by having a security firm come in, or make outrageous demands for see-through bags and doctor's notes so people could justify having their meds on them, but no. Instead they opted for a very friendly member of staff to just calmly, politely and good naturedly explain that he was legally obliged to check all bags. And he did, had a proper look in them, and sent you on your way, wishing you a great day. Which is how it should be. They could have made getting in very unpleasant, but instead they did it right. And I am grateful to them for that.

It's not the only thing they did right. Knowing that the convention can get boiling hot on warm days, they had made sure to have two bars open, with a drinks/food coin stand next to them. The prices were a little steep, but for an convention, they weren't extreme, which was something. And well, they were only a bit steep for some things, others were reasonable. There were three food trucks outside, one of which was vegan.

It was especially nice to see them specifically catering to vegans/vegetarians. It also needs to be said that the ICC is within walking distance of at least 2 pizza places, a falafel place and a Delhaize supermarket (open on Sunday) so even those that couldn't find what they wanted at the event (despite the numerous food vendors carrying Japanese or American candy and the one place selling only smoked sausages), still had options. That was, if they hadn't brought in their own lunch.

They might not have had quite as much seating space on the floor as they used to, but it was a glorious day and the park right outside has plenty of benches and spots to sit and picnic. That aside, they still did have their little "quiet" corridor upstairs, which is a super nice addition for people simply wanting a breather. Aside from that, there was plenty of room to be found to sit down for a moment throughout the entire event building.

This year, CCG had also grown in size, having a whole extra room. Unlike many conventions, they didn't just fill it up with more vendors. Don't get me wrong, there were a LOT of vendors, but there were also Q&A's retro video games, a cosplay contest and catwalk, karaoke, speed dating and more fun things. And of course, it wouldn't be a convention without guests, who you could meet and have a picture taken with (for a fee, as per usual). Unlike most cons, they had a pretty good schedule on both days, not just on the expected busiest Saturday.

Set-up wise, CCG did a good job on their set-up and diversifying. There were quite a few vendors selling vintage toys, and a lot of them did only carry the really popular fandoms, but if you looked around, you could find some real gems, both amongst sellers of official toys and in the young creator's section. But aside from that there were some shops you'd initially wonder what they were doing at a pop culture con, but in the end of the day, it's great they were there because it's a popular culture con, it's not just about comics, or superhero movies. It's about all of the popular and geeky culture, and that includes the Japanese culture crowd, the geek fashions, steampunk and LARPer and everyone else. And THAT is what Comic Con Gent understands and makes happen.

The is the same organisation that also organises Comic Con Brussels; Elftopia, Belgium's own fantasy fair; and Comic Con Antwerp, filling the void left behind after FACTS fucked over Antwerp Con and made that most beloved event disappear from the scene. They've sure got a lot on their plate, but Comic Con Gent, at least, was completely on point, and I will be happy to return next year!

Review by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



Photographic impressions of **COMIC CON GENT**

July 8 & 9, ICC, Ghent, Belgium

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert



Event: Atsusacon – Monsters VS Mechas
What: Asiamania/cosplay convention
When: August 5 & 6 2017
Where: ICC, Ghent, Belgium
Ticket price: varied, depending on the formula
Website: www.atsusacon.be

While most conventions in Belgium focus on shopping and meeting celebrities, *Atsusacon* is all about activities and experiences. This makes for a nice change of pace within the summer convention line-up. I think it's fair to state that *Atsusacon* has consolidated its spot in the Belgian convention scene. The road towards it may have been a bumpy one at times, but they've done a marvellous job creating their own niche and sticking to it throughout the years. This edition was very much a cosplay convention as it was mostly geared to those into cosplay. Which makes it even more unique in its kind.

Note that the BCM crew visited the event on Saturday and therefore cannot judge the event in its entirety.

Just like last year, *Atsusacon* was held at *ICC Ghent*. It's always a pleasure to walk around at this convention, because the organisation knows how to take full advantage of the available space (which in this case was three floors). The ground floor hosted Japanese sports demonstrations, the vendor area, the *CosplayCloud* booth, and part of the catering.

When you'd go up a floor, you'd find a cosy maid café, and the auditorium where cosplay events and a concert were held, as well as a seating area where you could catch your breath for a moment. And a few other food stalls.

Finally, the second floor contained the many workshops, games, TCG events, lectures, and hobby displays this convention prides itself on.

Food wise, there were quite a few options, even for vegetarians. On top of that the ICC has the bonus of its location, which is within a very short walking distance of other food options, should you not have brought lunch or simply aren't in the mood for anything served at the convention.

One of the nice things about *Atsusacon* is its carefree, newbie-friendly atmosphere. When you're new to the scene and you find big conventions a tad too intimidating to show off your first outfit, *Atsusacon* is the place to be. Don't have anything to wear yet? That's okay too, because you can learn how to draft patterns, sew, embroider, select wigs, perfect your make-up, and do many other cosplay-related crafts at this convention. They've done an effort to make J-Fashion enthusiasts feel welcome too, as this year's *Atsusacon* hosted a vendor geared towards lolita's (and we do mean actual lolita items, not glorified maid outfits and lace monsters, even though those were sadly also present at another stand), a gyaru nails session, as well as a BJD (ball jointed doll) meet.

Last year's edition had a lot of issues with cancelled activities. While we cannot judge the situation as it was on Sunday, it seemed like these hitches had been ironed out on this year's Saturday.

I will conclude with the same message we concluded last year's review with, because it still holds true. It has been an interesting journey to see *Atsusacon* grow throughout the years, and it's a pleasure to see this event stay true to itself in our current convention environment.

I hope to see many more editions in the years to come, because while it's still fairly small in size right now, it has the potential to grow into a classic.

P.S. If you want to give your own candid review of *Atsusacon*, you can!

Ganbaro VZW has put a survey on the *Atsusacon* website where you can leave feedback about the 2017 edition.



Photographic impressions of **ATSUSACON**

August 5 + 6, ICC, Ghent, Belgium

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert



Event: Elftopia
What: Fantasy Fair
When: August 12 & 13 2017
Where: grounds of Ooidonk castle, Deinze, Belgium
Ticket price: varied, depending on the formula
Website: www.elftopia.be

We didn't attend the first edition of *Elftopia* last year, so we can't compare. We also only attended the Saturday of this year's edition, so this review will be focused on that. What we can say, however, that it was really fun.

First we would like to start out by giving a very well-deserved shout-out to the organisation for actually actively acting against unwanted photography and harassment. Everyone that cosplays or dresses up in alternative fashion styles has encountered this kind of situation where a photographer takes photos without permission and acts like a douche when addressed about it at least once. And Elftopia sets itself apart by acting against it, and if needs be, actually getting involved and making photographers delete said photos and even ban them from the event if they continue to snap single shots without permission. And I applaud them for it! It's worth to note that this organisation is also the driving force between *Comic Con Brussels, Gent and Antwerpen*, so that's 4 events in total where you can rest assured that there is active protection from well, douchebags and creeps.

That said, onto the review!

Elftopia, like most European fantasy fairs, takes place on castle grounds. In this case, those of *Ooidonk castle* in a small village just outside Deinze. It's a little tricky to find (a little more signage would have been welcome), but once you are there, the grounds are pretty vast and the event is very well spread out. They've got a pretty good program, and there's quite a few things to see and do so you can easily be entertained all day long. Of course, there were some staple things such as a fandom section and shops as well as birds of prey you could admire, concerts to attend, etc, but they really did their best to offer a few things you don't usually see.

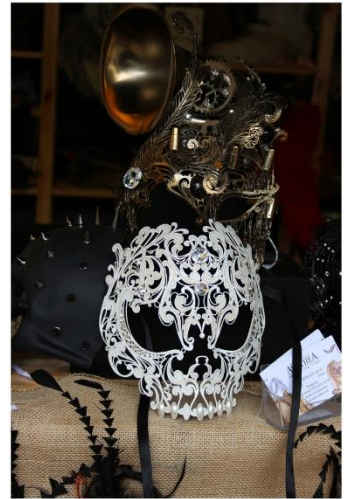
The small *Orc Village* was really cool, as was the steampunk section. The living mermaid and octomaid were hard to spot on the first day, but they were pretty impressive when you did. The faun family was incredibly fun to interact with and the *Fototainer* with his steampunk photo booth device was sheer brilliance. And those are just a few things that were on the program, by far not all!

The food and drinks were rather on the pricier side, but they did cater to vegans and vegetarians and you are allowed to bring your own food and drinks. So there's that, you're not actually forced to spend a lot of money on these things.

Elftopia is, at this point, still a small event that is clearly trying to build a reputation and grow. And that's ok, because all these big events have started out small and needed several years and editions to get to the point where they are now. What matters is that it's a fun event, they really do the effort of making visitors feel welcome and offer a lot of fun things to see and do.

Sure, there are some things that need to be improved upon, but my only real issue was the lack of shelter options for rain. There is a big covered area in the market place, but a lot of things are happening outside of that, so setting up more big shelter areas in the coming edition would definitely be a good thing. Not just from rain either, shelter with benches is also great when it's hot.

But yeah, small things that can easily be fixed aside, this edition was really fun to attend and I really enjoyed it. If you like fantasy fairs in general and don't mind that this event is not the size of its Dutch counterparts *Castlefest* or *Elfia* (we would say that this is more of the level of *FantasyVal*), I would definitely recommend it. If you don't, then we would suggest waiting a few more years 'till they've grown significantly. Because we really do believe that they can build this up to be one of the major fantasy fairs of Europe.



Photographic impressions of **ELFTOPIA**

August 13 & 13, Ooidonk Castle, Deinze, Belgium

Photography by Fototainer (www.fototainer.nl) and Hilde Heyvaert



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Tokyo Disney Sea, the 2nd park of the *Tokyo Disney Resort*, separates itself from other *Disney parks* by being almost not-Disney.

A bold statement, I know, but bear with me in this first impressions.

Tokyo Disney Sea is, as the name suggests, a park focused on water. Whilst there are some water rides like *Aquatopia*, it's not a water park. Instead, it focusses on waterways: lakes and rivers; and has been build ports and harbors of sometimes mythical proportions.

You enter the park right into **Mediterranean Harbor**, which strongly reminds of *Venice, Italy* in some parts. Right down to the *gondolas*. But also of coastal cities of Mediterranean Europe of the past, almost right out of the pages of *Da Vinci's* notebooks. With the undisputed crown piece: the *Fortress of Exploration*, dedicated completely to the arts and sciences of those days.

The entire area is beautiful just to walk around, or to catch a show and enjoy some food, rides and the fantastic theming. Whilst Disney is present there, mostly snuck into the decoration and merchandise and the few characters that roam the area, you feel that you're in a kind of world almost detached from what you would expect from a traditional Disney park.

The same goes for the **American Waterfront**, focusing on turn of the century transport, including old timer cars that you can take place in for a souvenir photo or board for a trip around the area (much like you would see on Main Street USA). Tokyo Disney Sea doesn't focus on monumental castles, it focusses on giant ships, from the galleys and shipping vessels all over Mediterranean Harbor to the huge steam ship in American Waterfront, reminiscent of the great ocean crossing traveler ships that brought so many seeking their fortune from Europe to the US.

To *Cape Cod*, a small village port, which is focused heavily on Duffy and his pals: *StellaLou* the latest ballerina bunny addition to the group of friends and Minnie's teddy *ShellyMay*. Their friend Gelatoni, the artist cat, is ever present even though his residence is actually Mediterranean Harbor, but the four friends are rarely split up.

This is also where you can meet with Duffy (expect lengthy queues, even on the quietest days of the year).

Here, again, there is Disney present, but again in the same way and unless you count *Duffy and Friends* and some statues and theming here and there, and the entrance to *Toy Story Mania*, it's also pretty subdued and subtle.

Make sure to check out their *Tower of Terror*, which is unique in look and back story in the world of Disney parks, and the only one with seatbelts.

From the Waterfront it's right into the almost futuristic area of **Port Discovery**. Which is much smaller and one of their two major steampunk ones. Expect lots of brass and steampunk architecture everywhere. Mixed in with a little dieselpunk for their electric railway and paddle steamer docks.

You'll find those throughout the park, and they're an extremely fun way to travel around Tokyo Disney Sea.

Lost River Delta is almost a culture shock. Because you go right from civilized ocean exploration into the wilds best associated with the travels and treasure hunting of *Indiana Jones*. This is an area of archaeology and South American trading. There's themed rides such as *Raging Spirits* and matching character meet and greet areas.

Arabian Coast is a smaller, as the name suggests, Arabian themed version of Mediterranean Harbor, but no less beautiful. You can find the infamous *Chandu* tail (one of the themepark snacks Tokyo Disney Sea is famous for) at *Sultan's Oasis* and the rides are very much *Sinbad* and *Aladdin* themed for the most part.

Next up is the most Disney area of the entire park: **Mermaid Lagoon**. Fans of *The Little Mermaid*, eat your heart out. Even though the rides are mostly geared to children, they are enjoyable for all ages and the area is beautifully constructed. This is also home to the park's castle: that of *King Triton*. You can't go in, but it's lovely to look at if you're into that sort of thing.

Last but not certainly not least is the area centered around a lake, waterway and the park's crown piece: the volcano *Mount Prometheus*, which can be seen throughout most of the park. **Mysterious Island** was literally build from the pages of two novels by Jules Verne (*Mysterious Island* and *Journey to the Center of the Earth*), making it THE steampunk Mecca of the world. You'll see the island where *Nautilus* was constructed with your own eyes and you can board one of it's exploration pods for the beautiful *20,000 Leagues under the Sea*, which I would 100% recommend unless you are claustrophobic. *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, in turn, is magnificently incorporated even though it's based off an entirely different book. The entire area is a volcano matched with steampunk and art nouveau and it is beautiful, but aside from merchandise, there's not a Disney thing in sight.

Tokyo Disney Sea IS Disney, but in such a subtle way that it's description of "*the grownup Disney on water*" is both apt and not an exaggeration at all. I'm not saying children won't enjoy it, I'm saying this is Disney for the Disney fan that isn't into an abundance of bright colours and in your face Disney non-stop.

Everything about Tokyo Disney Sea is next level. Their shows, their customer service, their merchandise and their food. You won't find Disney Store merchandise in the parks, the food is incredibly varied, ranging from sandwiches, pizza, burgers, pastries, Asian and Japanese cuisine and the most awesome park snacks known to man. And it's all very affordable. Most restaurants are 1000 yen and under for a meal, meaning a main course and drinks.

The park tickets may be pricier than those for it's European counterpart, *Disneyland Paris*, in off peak season (peak season DLP is more expensive than TDS has the same pricing year 'round) but the overall experience is better, and the food and merch are cheaper. Basically, if you would have the same budget for both parks, and you would take transport from Tokyo to TDS or Paris to DLP, you would get MORE out of your Japanese Disney budget.

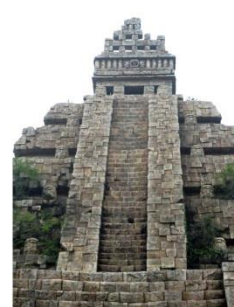
If you love Disney and you find yourself in Japan, I would absolutely recommend taking at least a day to check out one of the parks. Also: take the two JR trains and the monorail instead of the direct bus from Shinjuku, because the monorail is a lovely experience on it's own!

Tokyo Disney Sea English website:

www.tokyodisneyresort.jp/en/tds

Side note: man parts are only available in Japanese, but if you have Google Chrome, their browser's translating feature does a really good job.

Review by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert. Photography by Hilde Heyvaert. With kind help of Marie Huberty.





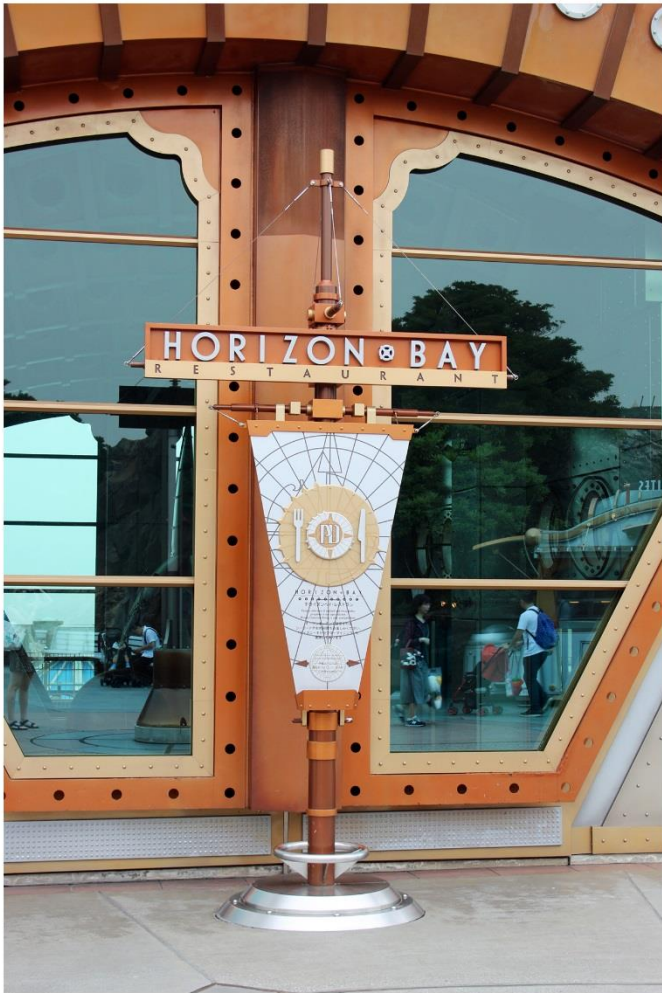
MEDITERRANEAN HARBØR



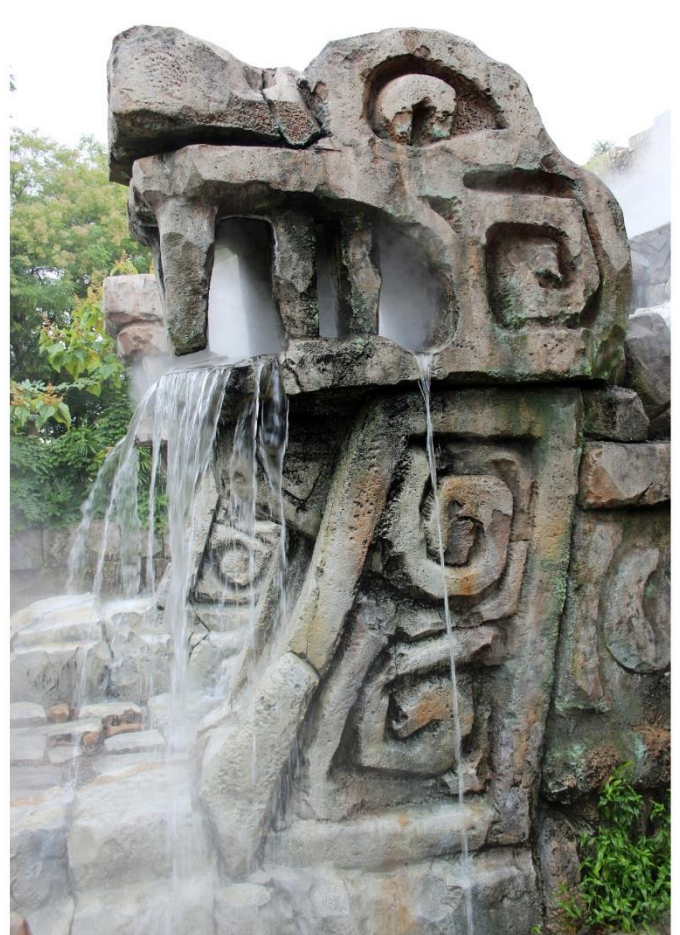


AMERICAN
WATERFRONT





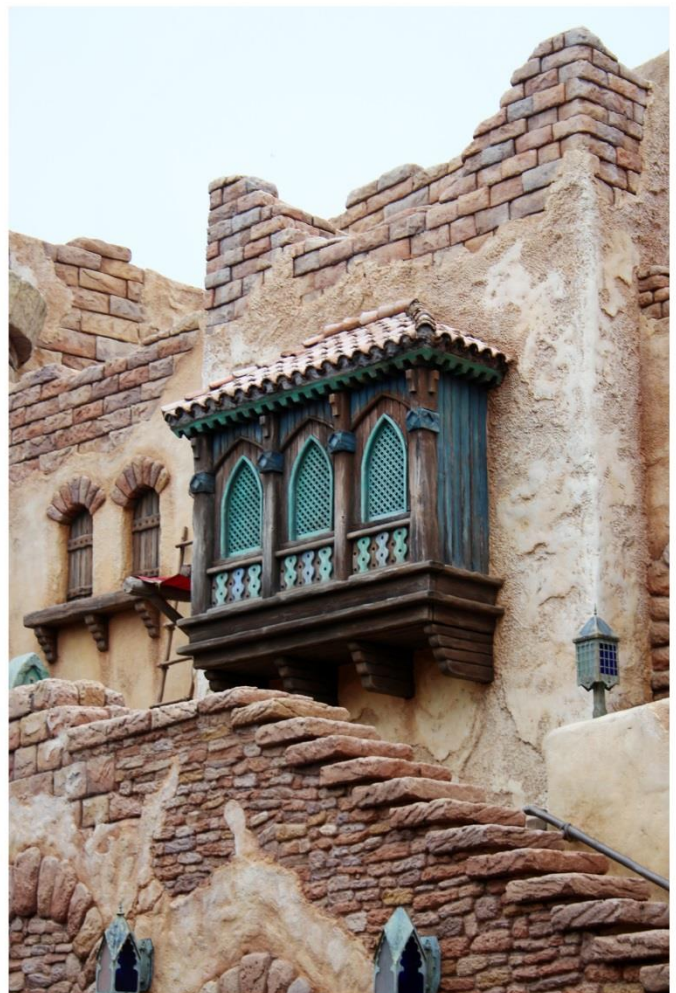
PORT DISCOVERY

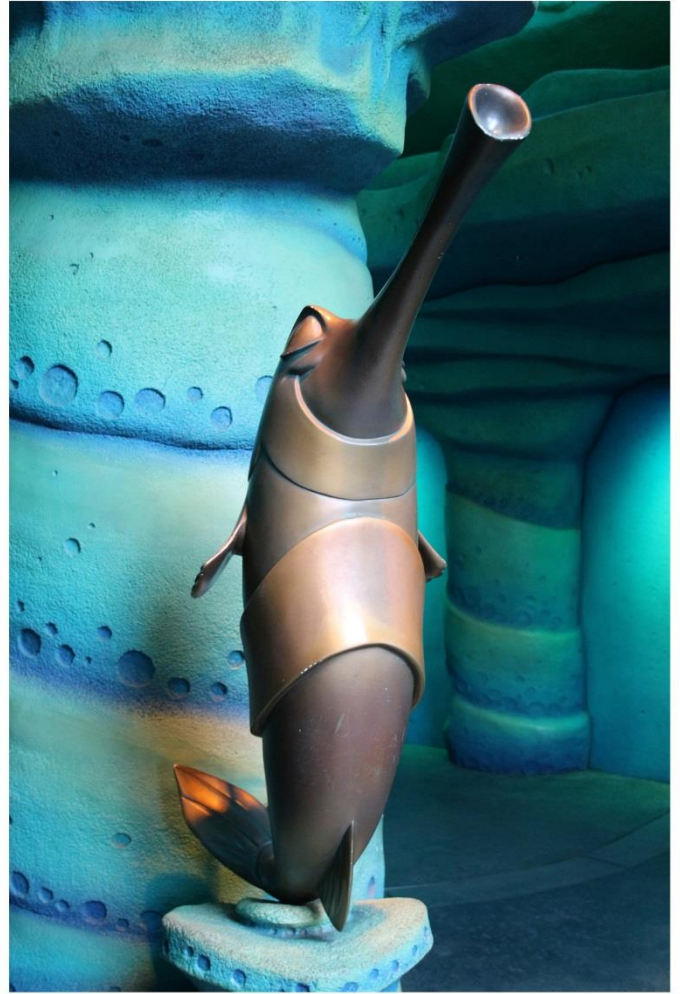


LOST RIVER DELTA



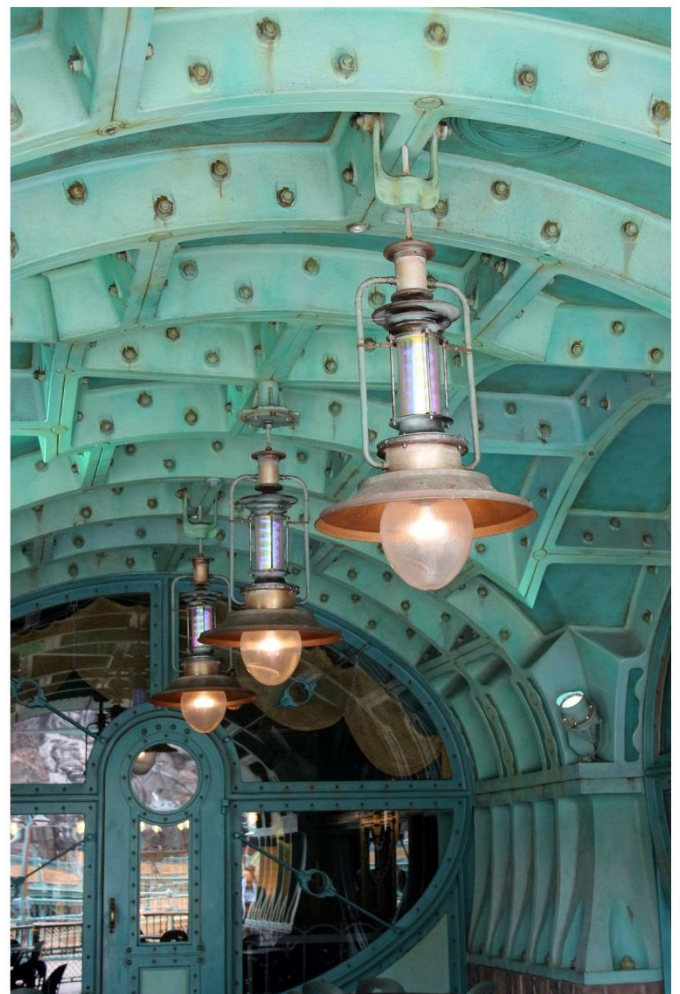
ARABIAN COAST





MERMAID LAGOON





MYSTERIOUS ISLAND

Photographic impressions of **DISNEY'S HALLOWEEN**

September 8 - October 31 2017; Tokyo Disney Sea, Tokyo Disney Resort, Chiba, Japan

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert





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Dolls with an edge

FREAKS CIRCUS

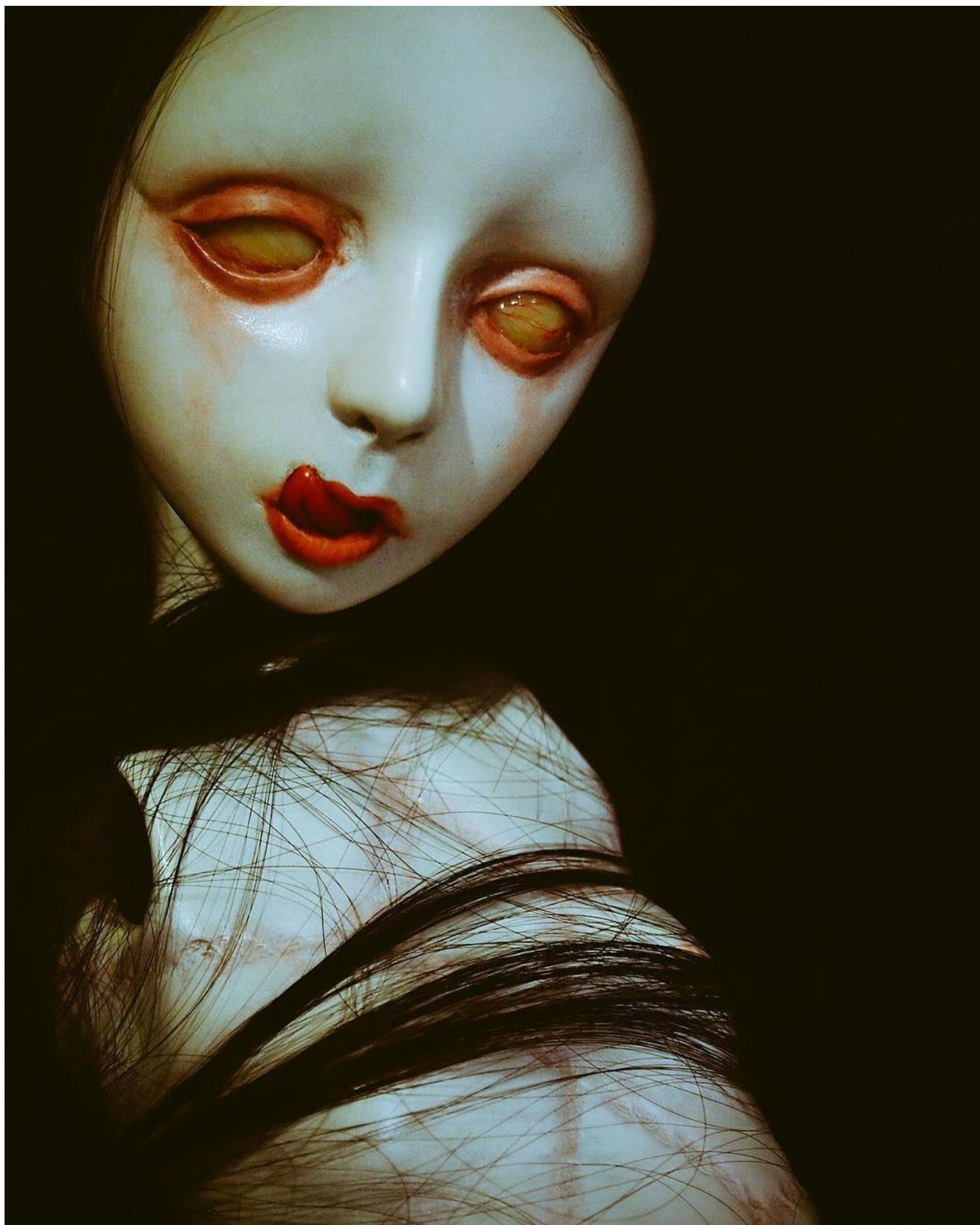
















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J-MUSIC CORNER

Japanese music reviews and interviews

Reviews by Hilde Heyvaert, Charlotte Ruddick, Lora-Elly Vannieuwenhuysen and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



Bed In
"CO•CO•RO Generation"
Single
Genre: 80s pop

Bed In is everything we love about 1980s pop music, but then Jpop style. Think synthesisers, electronics, and the kind of beat and tunes that would make many stars from that era jealous. Their latest single is just more proof that these ladies are the undisputed 80s queens. My one regret is that it's basically just two songs (because each song has a karaoke version), could totally have done with more *Bed In*.

BCM's favourite track: CO•CO•RO Generation



AMATSUKI
"Mr Fake"
"TSUNGERU"
Double sided single
Genre: pop/rock

I'm not going to say that *AMATSUKI*'s new work isn't guarantee for very solid pop/rock, because that'd be lying. I just feel they would have been better off releasing one 5 track EP, rather than 2 separate singles with each only one different song and 3 that are the same. They're all good songs for sure, and an absolute recommendation for fans of the genre.

BCM's favourite track: Mr Fake



INORAN
"INTENSE MELLOW"
Double EP
Genre: rock, shoegazing

INORAN's latest release, celebrating his 20th year as a solo artist, is a double CD with re-recordings of songs from his 2 decade career. They're not in chronological order, rather in the order the artist feels is the best listening continuation, and that's much appreciated as it works rather better. It's a great way to see how far he's come in all that time, as both a vocalist as well as a composer and guitarist. Plus it's great to hear a new take on old classics, especially because some great songs are now even more awesome.

BCM's favourite track: 千年花



LOVEBITES
"THE LOVEBITES EP"
Single
Genre: (power)metal

LOVEBITES distinguishes themselves from traditional power metal bands, but at the same time brings the atmosphere we love from the genre. This doesn't just set them apart, it makes their music the kind of different where it transcends, so to speak, the genre. The *LOVEBITES* is a four song single that will appeal to not just the (power)metal fan, but to fans of alternative music full stop. A beat you want to move/dance to, awesome vocals and even more awesome music full stop? *LOVEBITES* has it all, by the spades. They might not look like a metalband, but they sure prove that looks can be very, very deceiving.

BCM's favourite track: Scream for Me



Mary's Blood
"FATE"
EP
Genre: heavy metal

Mary's Blood is everything that there is to love about traditional female fronted heavy metal: excellent guitar play with ripping riffs, musicians that really own their instruments and vocals that are completely on point. It is absolutely no surprised that the band was in such a high demand for easily accessible European (thank you JPU!). If you love metal, this is an absolute must, but even if you don't love metal this is definitely worth checking out!

BCM's favourite track: Nautical Star



Niji no Conquistador
"This Summer Girl Is an Innocent Mistress"
Single
Genre: Jpop

The latest single of *Niji no Conquistador* will definitely make you wish summer is back, with it's three uber cheerful traditional J-pop tunes. Upbeat, cheery bordering on tooth decay, it's got everything fans love about Japanese pop-music. An absolutely must if that genre is your jam.

BCM's favourite track: Natsu no yoru wa mijikasugirukedo...



Moso Calibration
"Greatest Hits World – Selection"
 Overseas exclusive album
 Genre: Jpop

Listening to the tracks from this album it's unsurprising why nearly 1000 albums sold at the latest edition of *HYPER JAPAN* last July. Jpop certainly is a very popular genre, and *Moso Calibration* is a prime example of everything good about it. Upbeat tunes, cheerful vocals, all with a danceable beat in the background. What's not to love if you love Jpop?! Right, nothing.

BCM's favourite track: Unbalance Umbrella



NoGoD
"Arlequin"
 Single
 Genre: metal

NoGoD's 5 single release almost functioned like an appetiser for their later, full CD release *proof*, and it did that job admirably. The addition of live songs was definitely a nice touch and the tag line "NoGoD aren't clowning around" is definitely apt.

BCM's favourite track: Azayakana Mujyun



NoGoD
"proof"
 Full CD
 Genre: metal

NoGoD's full release only features two tracks from *Arlequin*: *Arlequin* and *DREAMER*, albeit this time a recorded version of the latter rather than a live one. These 12 songs prove that NoGoD is a band that constantly evolves without ever losing their own sound. This is a band that deserves global fame within the metal scene, simply because they are that awesome.

BCM's favourite track: Shinkirou



SIN ISOMER
"BURST into ISOMER"
 EP
 Genre: heavy metal

SIN ISOMER is debuting her very first album in Europe also, and that's a good thing, because her songs arrangements and music are next level on point. She has a very special, very strong voice, that I can see not appealing to everyone, but if you love female metal voices, definitely give this a go. There's a good chance you'll love this, especially because there is more than enough variation in the tracks.

BCM's favourite track: Future King



Check the calendar for dates and
highfeel.jp/events for tickets

Photographic impressions of **SVG LIVE**

Sunday, August 27 2017; Le Garage, Liège, Belgium

Photography by Bert Van den Wyngaert





We met haru on his final date of his "I" tour in Liège, where he was kind enough to spend some time talking to BCM for an interview, talking about his experiences of his first European solo tour.

You're touring Europe solo for the first time. What were your expectations before coming here?

I was so looking forward to coming here. Seriously, I was super excited. I have been impressed with the entire tour to be honest. Especially all the fans have been so amazing. They are so passionate. I enjoyed spending time with them through Japanese music. It's an amazing connection *smiles*.

Is the tour everything you hoped it would be?

Oh yes it is *smiles*. Especially the food is exceptional! I love all the cheese, you really have no idea just how much *laughs*.

Normally you're on stage with *universe*. How does it feel to be on stage solo?

Well, right now, *universe* is taking a break, so I have to perform solo *smiles*. The main difference is that with a band you're doing a concert together for the audience. When performing solo, it's me together _with_ the audience. So that's definitely different.

Do you think that you'll come back with *universe* also?

Right now, I honestly don't know what will happen. I just know with 100% certainty that I will be back. Whether that's with *universe*, a new band or solo remains to be seen. But I will be back for sure *smile*.

Can you tell us something you knew before the tour start about each country you are performing in?

I can, but I think it's a little bit different than what you'd expect. Personally, I LOVE soccer, I am so passionate about it. So I could name players of every national team of the coun-

tries I've performed in if you like *laughs*. Watching the European players, I actually feel like I can kind of understand their personalities, and even the personalities of people from their countries. So I was very curious to see whether that matched with the fans too *smiles*, seeing their reactions to my music.

Which player from the *Red Devils*, the Belgian national team, is your favourite?

Eden Hazard for sure. I'm a huge fan! I've watched all of their games, and actually I've rewatched several too *grins*.

The next part of the interview is *prompts*. I say a phrase or a word, and you tell me the first thing that comes to mind.

Ok, let's do it!

Fans in Europe compared to those in Japan.

Japanese fans smile a lot. They have a very friendly disposition. European fans are very hot. And by that I mean passionate *smiles*.

European summer versus Japanese summer

Japanese summers are so humid that I spend them inside. The weather is just too oppressive to go outside a lot. The European summer isn't like that at all, so if I'm here during summer, I spend it outside as much as I can, because here I actually get to enjoy it *smiles*.

On the road

Meeting people *smiles*.

Final

Today is the tour final and I am very happy about how the tour went. I will definitely miss being on tour in Europe, though. A lot. But on the other side, it will also be good to be home again.

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert. Japanese translation by Takeshi Asai.
Photography by Bert Van den Wyngaert



LOVE!!

日本から愛を込めて

haha



Win a SNAPSHOT signed by haru!

Yeah, our faithful instax 90 NEO CLASSIC died a few months ago, and because the issue seems to be a common one, we at BCM have opted not to replace it. At least, not whilst our trusty Polaroid SNAP camera still works. Basically, what you can win now is still an instant photo, but whilst we used to hold give-aways with instax photos we now will hold them with SNAPshots. These may not have frames, BUT they are stickers!

So dear readers, that is what one of you can win: a sticker photo signed by the super friendly haru, who was kind enough to participate in this when we interviewed him before his tour final show in Liège.

All you need to do is explain, in your own way, why you should win this particular (signed) photo. You can write something, draw something, make a Photoshop collage: anything goes as long as you can send it by email and it is safe for work! So no porn, no smutty fanfic, keep it decent and it's a valid entry ;). Please keep in mind that I had to scan this, and so the actual photo won't be exactly like what you see here.

Submissions can be emailed to hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com

The last date for submissions is December 18st, so you still have plenty of time to come up with something! The winner will be personally notified after the deadline* and asked for their home address so we can mail** out their cheki. Don't worry, your address stays on file with BCM, but will NOT be given to third parties, so your privacy is definitely assured!

* Please take into account that judging takes a bit of time, especially during final editing period of the next edition, so please be patient for the results as it can take a few days for them to be released. We will email everyone that submitted to let them know whether or not they won.

** We rely on regular, unsigned and thus unregistered mail to send out cheki via B-Post and we are no means responsible should the post screw up. They haven't so far and we've sent cheki all over the globe, but you never know so we like to mention this in advance. They can also take quite a while to deliver, so please be patient. Especially if you live outside of Belgium. Shipping to locations outside of Europe may take anything from a handful of days, to a couple of weeks and even a few months.





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Hairband, Veritas. Orchid hairband, Crown and Glory. Hairflower, H&M. Frames, Theo. Doll head necklace, Freaks Circus. Blouse, H&M. Skirt, House of Secrets Incorporated. Petticoat, Dear Celine. Socks, asos. Shoes, asos.







Flower hairclip, H&M. **Frames**, Theo. **Cardigan**, Primark. **Blouse**, H&M. **Necklace**, I Love Crafty x Pony People. **Bat bracelet**, Angelic Pretty. **Chameleon skull ring**, Moon Raven Designs. **Brooch on cardigan**, House of Secrets Incorporated. **Skirt**, House of Secrets Incorporated. **Petticoat**, Dear Celine. **Spats**, House of Secrets Incorporated. **Shoes**, Secret Shop.









Cat eared beret, H&M. Frames, Theo. Denim jacket, H by Henry Holland. Bat top (dress), H&M. Skirt, House of Secrets Incorporated. Petticoat, Dear Celine. Over the knee socks, Angelic Pretty (Halloween Treats). Shoes, Butterfly Twists. Bat bracelet, Angelic Pretty (Magic Treat). Bat ring, Poorman's Gold Label.





Holly hairclip, handmade. Frames, Theo. Dress, Monki. Pearl ring, Chocomint. Crown ring, Angelic Pretty. Bag, Swimmer. Tights, We Love Colors. Boots, Kickers.





Hat, offbrand. **Goggles**, Flying Tiger Copenhagen, customised by Lora. **Frames**, Hans Anders. **Blouse**, H&M. **Dress**, Angelic Pretty. **Underbust vest**, offbrand. **Wristcuffs**, Summertales Boutique. **Tights**, Veritas. **Boots**, Leathers Takai. **Accessories**, Jenna, Pass N Thru, offbrand. **Band-aids**, Flying Tiger Copenhagen.

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EVENT CALENDAR

All dates and information may be subject to change, none of this is within our control.

still on...

Expo Dino World
End date: November 5 2017
Venue: Brussels Expo, palais 2
City: Laeken
Country: Belgium
www.expodinoworld.be

October

BRIDEAR
The Silver Lining EURO tour 2017
2: Café Central, Weinheim, Germany
4: Keller Club, Stuttgart, Germany
5: Divadlo Pod Lampou, Pilzen, Czech Republic
6: Alter Schlachthof, Wels, Austria
7: MODOCON Hungexpo, Budapest, Hungary
8: Explosiv, Graz, Austria
10: Schur, Luzern, Switzerland
12: King, Neuchâtel, Switzerland
13: Palazzo Beat Club, Chur, Switzerland
14: Souris Vert, Epinal, France

Retro Made in Asia
Date: 7 & 8
Venue: Namur Expo
City: Namur
Country: Belgium
<https://madeinasia.be>

Crystal Lake – European Tour
23: 229 The Venue, London, UK
24: Satan's Hollow, Manchester, UK
25: The Flapper, Birmingham, UK
26: Underground, Plymouth, UK
27: Talking Heads, Southampton, UK
28: MoreCore Festival, Cologne, Germany
29: Dynamo Werk21, Zurich, Switzerland
30: Szene, Vienna, Austria
www.jpurecords.com/crystal-lake-uk-tour-2017

Quartier National's annual Halloween Cosplay Zombie parade
Date: 28
Venue: gather outside Amuz at 2PM
City: Antwerp
Country: Belgium
RSVP by mailing ikdoemee@zombiewalk.be

November

Band-Maid world tour 2017
3: O2 Academy Islington, London, UK
4: La Boule Noire, Paris, France

5: Zeche, Bochum, Germany
8: Bi Nu, Berlin, Germany
9: Backstage, Munich, Germany
12: Salamandra, Barcelona, Spain

LOKA
GRIP, the world tour
16: Rock Classic, Brussels, Belgium
18: Art to Play, Parc des Expositions, Nantes, France
19: Le Pizzo, Paris, France
23: Bobble Café, Lomme, France
24: Le Garage, Liège, Belgium
25: Rock Club The Cave, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
26: Marie-Antoinette, Berlin, Germany
28: Voodoo Club, Warsaw, Poland
29: Chapeau Rouge, Prague, Czech Republic
highfeel.jp/events



December

ONE OK ROCK
Ambitions European Tour 2017
1: Komplex 457, Zurich, Switzerland
2: Lucerna Music Bar, Prague, Czech Republic
3: Hala Kolo, Warsaw, Poland
5: The Circus, Helsinki, Finland
6: Debaser Strand, Stockholm, Sweden
7: Parkteatret, Oslo, Norway
9: Pumpehuset, Copenhagen, Denmark
11: O2 ABC Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland
12: Academy 2, Manchester, UK
13: Shepherd's Bush Empire, London, United Kingdom
15: Live Music Hall, Cologne, Germany
16: Tonhalle München, Munich, Germany

17: Ottakringer Brewery, Vienna, Austria
19: Huxley's Neue Welt, Berlin, Germany
21: Melkweg Max, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
22: Zenith, Paris, France
www.oneokrock.com

LOKA
GRIP, the world tour
2: Japan Touch, Eurexpo Lyon, Lyon, France
highfeel.jp/events

Echo Base – charity con
Date: 16
Venue: Kinopolis Jaarbeurs
City: Utrecht
Country: The Netherlands
www.echobase.nl

Disney in concert
Date: 26 & 27
Venue: Brussels Expo, Hall 12
City: Laeken
Country: Belgium
www.ticketmaster.be

January

Fast & Furious live
Date: 27 & 28
Venue: Sportpaleis
City: Antwerp
Country: Belgium
livenation.be

February

Esprit d'Air
Constellations tour 2017
All UK dates
5: The Underworld Camden, London
6: Buffalo, Cardiff, Wales
7: Mama Roux's, Birmingham
8: Sound Control, Manchester
9: Jumpin' Jacks, Newcastle on Tyne
10: Rockmantic Weekender, Carlisle
11: Audio Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland

Comic Con Brussels
Date: 10 & 11
Venue: Tour & Taxis
City: Brussels
Country: Belgium
www.comicconbrussels.com

COMIC CON GENT SNAP

July 8 & 9, ICC, Ghent, Belgium.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert.



ATSUSACON SNAP

August 5 & 6, ICC, Ghent, Belgium.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert.

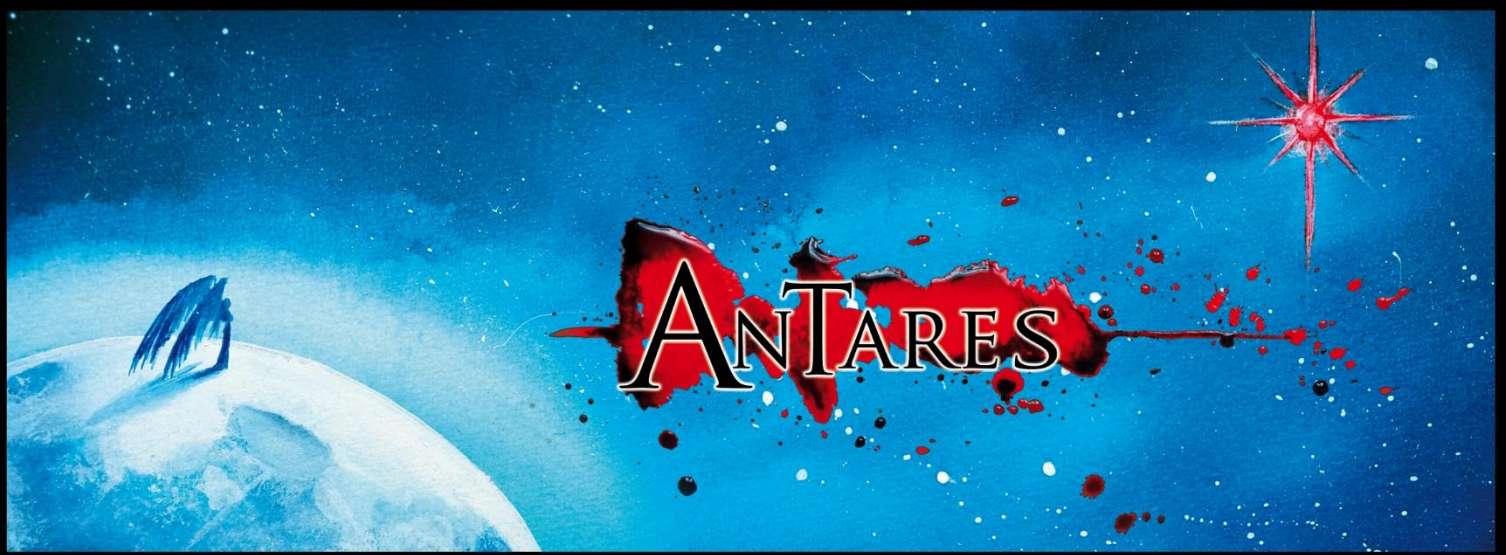


ELFTOPIA SNAP

August 12 & 13, Ooidonk Castle, Deinze, Belgium.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.





Sombre Antares, Étoile écarlate, Mon cœur l'appartient.

First of all, this is literally just a first impressions.

We were only in **Tokyo** for one week and only visited certain areas, so we are in no way, shape or form qualified to write an in depth piece on the city, or Japan full stop. This is just things we experience that we thought would be practical to share with other first time visitors, or would make repeat visitors smile.

Tokyo is a surprisingly clean city for such a vast metropolis. Sure, there was the occasional wrapper or cigarette bud on the ground, but compared to big cities in Belgium, it was super clean. Which is an all the more amazing feat considering how few trash cans you see out in the street (which can be a mite inconvenient).

Maps are hard to read if you don't know Japanese. So make sure to write down detailed addresses of the places you want to visit, look them up on google maps and print said maps. Better yet, rent one of those portable routers you can attach to your phone or tablet. We didn't, and we regret it still! There is more free wifi than there used to be now, but it's mostly in stations, restaurants and malls, so not always that practical on the go. If a friend advises you to rent a portable router, don't be dim like us and just take their advice and do it. Trust us on this.

We didn't take the metro, so we can't say anything about that. We did, however, take the JR on a near daily basis. The JR is super clean and efficient. If you don't take it during rush hour, you likely still have to stand, but you'll at least have breathing space. People queue to enter a train, there are queuing areas on the platforms, it makes getting on and off much less stressful and much more orderly.

You can also get a *Pasmo* or *Suica* card. *Suica* is comparable to the *London Oyster card*. You can also use it to pay in select stores (mostly in stations) and some taxis. This is super practical, because if you initially charge too much money on it, it's easy to use it up. The touch pads where you enter and leave a station also without fault will tell you your current *Suica* balance, and your receipt if you pay with *Suica* in a store will do the same, so it's easy to keep track of how much money is still on there.

Most stations, especially *Shinjuku*, are nigh impossible to navigate. We were there for a week and whilst getting in was never an issue, getting out was always an issue. We don't think we ever managed to take the right exit. Not once. But it's ok, you can just go outside and walk around the building and get where you need to be. Roundabout, oh yes. But at least it beats being stuck inside. On the upside, it's a huge station and there's lots to see, so that's something at least. But yes, station navigation is hard. And it's also often quite hard to find the elevators, which is a total pain if you are lugging around your luggage and have to use the stairs.

In general, Japanese people are very friendly. If they feel confident enough speaking English, they will stop and help you find your way. Some will even go as far as walk along with you, showing you where you have to be, if it's on their way, or they will look up a map on their phone to help you out. They are in general extremely respectful of others and of the rules, and you as a foreigner are expected to do the same. Some rules are very obvious and easy to pick up on, others not so much, so reading up about them online before going is advisable. If you don't speak Japanese, but it's clear you are doing your utmost to "fit in" you will be responded to with helpfulness and friendliness in the vast majority of situations. At least, that's our personal experience.

You need to learn at least a few Japanese phrases, if only so you can explain you don't know Japanese, to ask if they can please speak English, say thank you, sorry, please, the basics of communication really. And even then, getting around can be pretty hard, even with helpful people. It sometimes took us upwards of an hour to find something we wanted to see. Which would have been avoidable if we had just rented that damned portable router. Rent the router, trust me on that. Don't just assume that because it's a metropolis, people will speak English. Because most don't speak very good English at all. If they can they will still try to help you out, but don't count on easily getting by!

That said, it's also not so that you won't be able to enjoy your trip if you don't speak Japanese, it'll probably still be amazing. You'll just have to put more effort into planning than you usually would, but luckily there is the internet to help you out with that!

Food in Tokyo is amazing and very affordable, generally speaking. If you love junk food, you could easily live off *McDonalds* and the like, although we would advise at least going to *Mos Burger* instead. If you don't have time to stop in a restaurant or feel like having a picnic, the small local supermarkets, *konbini*, are literally everywhere. All of them will sell some packaged foods and several also sell warm fresh foods such as gyoza, dumplings, fried chicken, fish and the like. Some others also sell sushi and onigiri. There are food department stores, generally near larger stations, which have a wider variety of foods, which is all excellent and mostly very affordable if you want to take out.

If you have food allergies, get them translated. Even if people don't speak Japanese, they will look at your allergy sheet and nod yes or no in the absolute worst case scenario and you will still remain incident free.

If you are vegetarian and vegan, make sure to look up specific addresses and apps before you go, else you may find yourself living off onigiri for the duration of your stay. It's not that there isn't vegetarian or vegan food available, it's just that it's far from easy to find, especially if you don't speak Japanese. We are neither vegetarian nor vegan, but we know a lot of the readers are so we wanted to emphasize this.

If you go outside the busy tourist season, and stick to the weekdays for sights, even busier areas such as *Takeshita Dori* are not that crowded at all and you'll be able to really get around, seeing and experiencing things without feeling overcrowded.

Even though Tokyo is a busy, bustling metropolis, there is a lot of green and small, quiet spaces to it. There are of course large parks such as *Shinjuku Gyoen* or *Yoyogi*, but there are also plenty of smaller ones and beautiful spots where you can just sit down and relax for a moment. Such as *Tokyu Plaza's* upper level garden with trees and plenty of seating space in *Omedesando/Harajuku*. If you like temples but dislike crowds, stick to small(er) ones such as Togo-Jinja. They're easy enough to find online, and they'll give you the cultural experience you want without the crowds.

So yeah, be well prepared before you go. If you don't speak Japanese, be especially well prepared. And then you'll be able to enjoy your trip without too much of a glitch. Or wasting an hour trying to find the *Shibuya Disney Store* and stuff like that.

Text by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert. Photography by Hilde Heyvaert. With kind help of Marie Huberty.





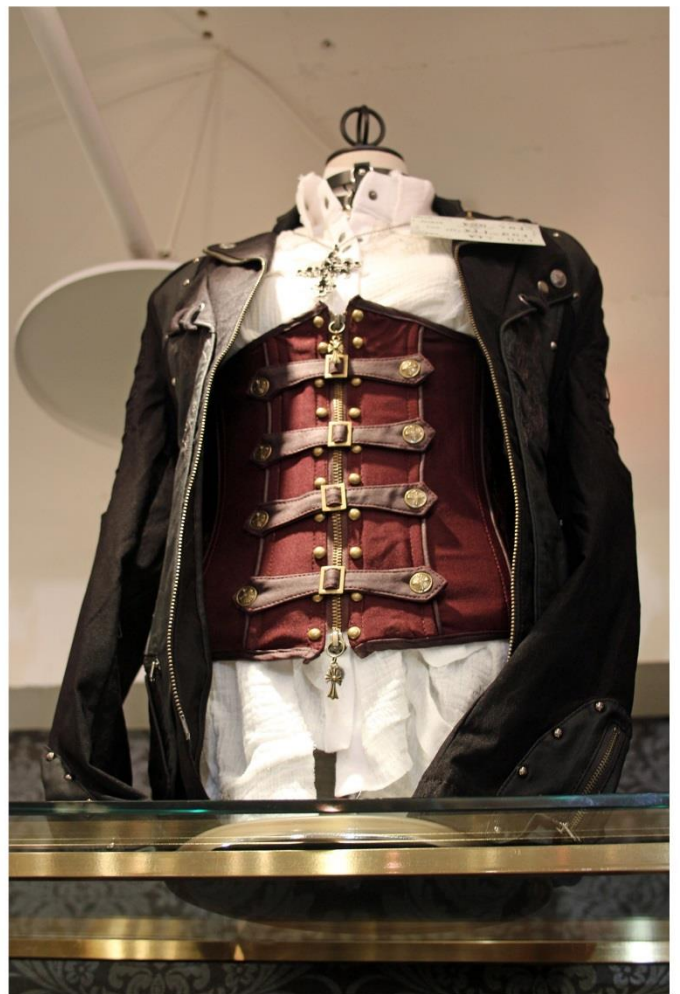
a glance over tokyo



harajuku



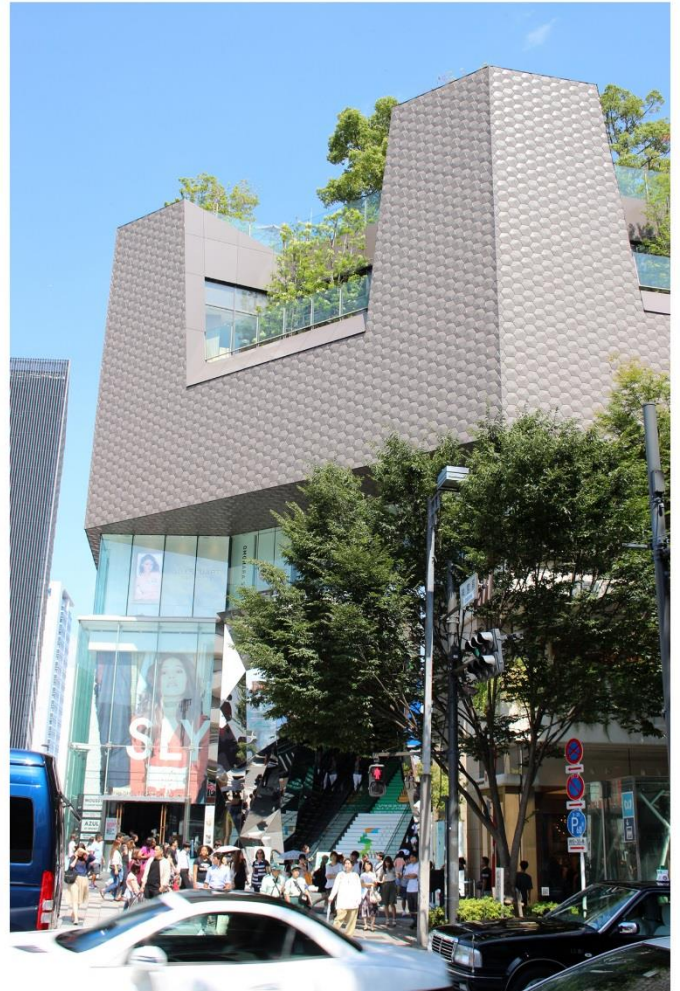




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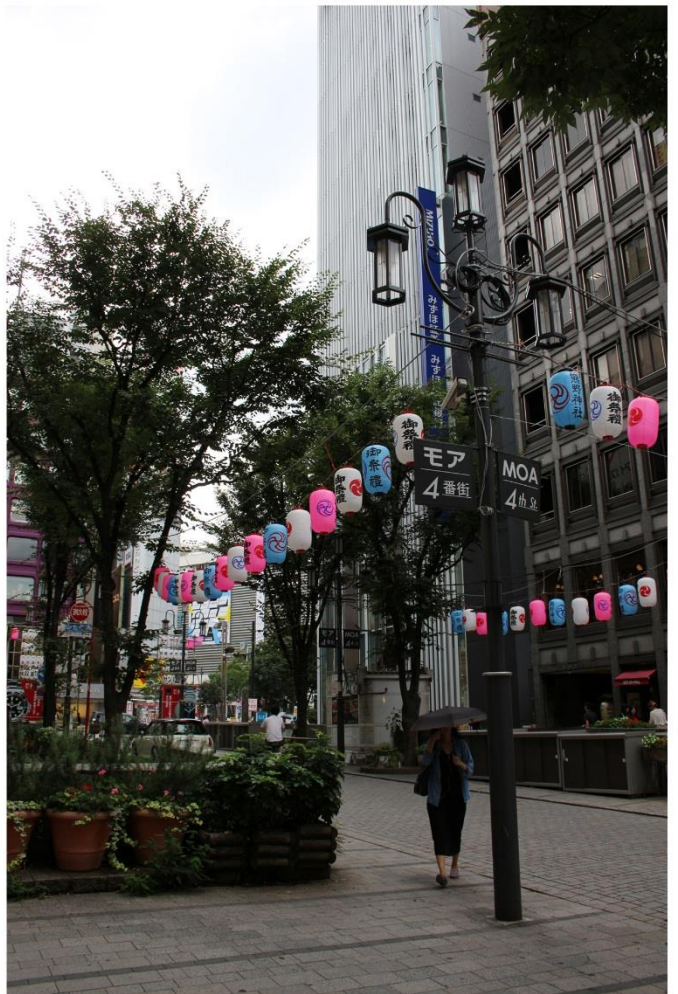


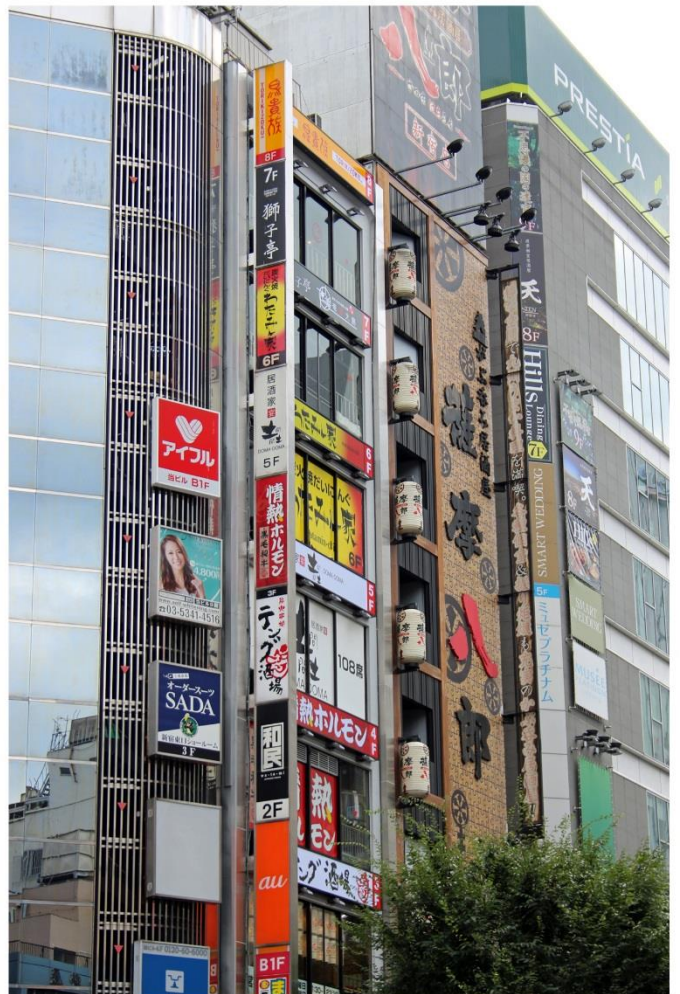


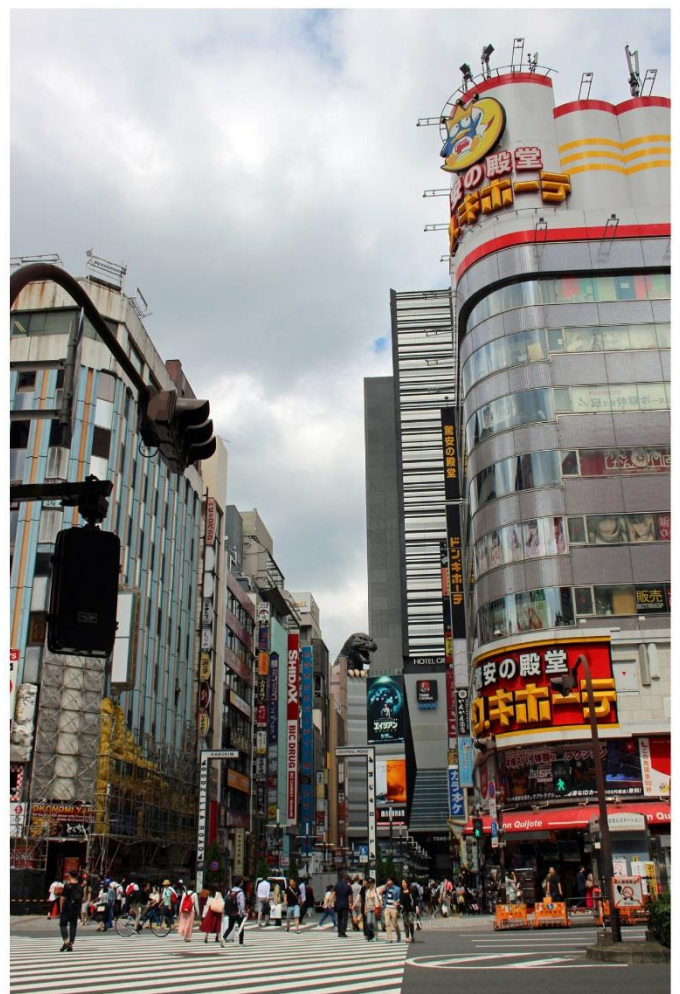




shinjuku









haru, before his tour final show at Le Garage, Liège, Belgium

Sunday, August 27 2017, Liège, Belgium
Photo © Bert Van den Wyngaert